

Egremont Board of Health

Held Via Zoom

Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 10:00 am

Members Present: Charles Ogden, Ellen Maggio

Others Present: Jennifer Kimball, Berkshire Health Alliance, Stephen Murray, George McGurn

Recording: Juliette Haas, Director

- 1) Chairman Ogden called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. He noted the meeting was being recorded to Zoom and introduced all those present representing the EBOH. Motion made and seconded to adopt the minutes from the September 30, 2021 with one correction. Vote taken 2-0 pass.
- 2) **Berkshire Overdose Addiction Protection Collaborative (BOAPC)** Jennifer Kimball (Berkshire Health Alliance) and Stephen Murray (North Berkshire County First Responder) gave a PowerPoint presentation on a program which would address harm reduction measures to those in our community and region who suffer from substance abuse issues. The program would expand the reach of brick and mortar facilities to provide a mobile unit of syringe distribution and other outreach measures. These measures would not only address intravenous drug use but would provide safer techniques to reduce the spread of HIV and hepatitis C infections. COVID lockdowns have seen great increases in all substance abuse areas. After their presentation, a motion was made by member Maggio to sign a support letter to the MassDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Services to allow a qualified and appropriate organization to operate a Syringe Services Program in the Town of Egremont. Motion was seconded by Chairman Ogden. Vote taken 2-0. Motion passed.
- 3) **COVID 19**
 - Current cases:** unchanged at 24 cumulative total
 - Infection rate county:** 1.85%
 - Infection rate state:** 1.95%
 - Mask Directive** the board made no changes to the current town-wide mask directive
 - Outdoor mask signs were printed and will be posted at the Transfer Station and Pavilion at French Park. Smaller signs will be laminated and posted at the Dog Park.
 - Booster shots:** pharmacies have about a one week to 10 day waiting period. Currently only Pfizer boosters are approved by FDA
 - SBRSD letter:** Director Haas read a letter sent by the School Committee at Southern Berkshire Regional School District to BOH in all five towns of the district inquiring whether COVID vaccine requirements for students is being considered. Chairman Ogden and member Maggio took no action requiring vaccinations for students at the district schools. Director Haas will be meeting via Zoom with members of BOH from other district towns later in the day.

Masks Chairman Ogden requested that additional KN95 masks be purchased and placed outside Town Hall.

- 4) **Flu clinic** Alliance nurses administered 78 flu vaccines at the clinic at French Park on October 6th.

5) Recent Field Work

Perc/74 Prospect Lake Rd/Alliance/didn't perc

Title 5/155 Hillsdale Road/Alliance/new tank installed/pass

Title 5/2 Westerhook/Alliance/needs new tank/conditional pass

Title 5/6 Oxbow Road/Alliance/pass

- 6) **Schnessel/87 Shun Toll Road** Board reviewed plans submitted by Berkshire Engineering for upgraded septic system. The system uses Eljen technology in the field which will allow for a two-foot reduction to estimated seasonal high groundwater. Motion made and seconded to allow the two-foot reduction to estimated seasonal high groundwater and the alternate perc method Local Upgrade Approval under maximum feasible compliance. Vote taken 2-0 pass.

- 7) **Annual Report** The board reviewed and approved the submission prepared by Director Haas.

- 8) Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am. The next meeting will be Thursday October 28th at 10:00 am.

Juliette Haas
Approved 10/28/2021